



Celebrating the Lehigh Valley's Civic Backbone

One word comes to mind in describing our vast array of local governments: collaboration. In a region with 62 municipalities, collaboration is an absolute necessity and one of our biggest strengths.

On June 28th, the LVPC hosted a Local Government Appreciation Day barbecue lunch at Wayne Grube Park in Allen Township to celebrate the many government workers who serve the Lehigh Valley. Even Mother Nature seemed to think highly of our local government workers and board officials, providing a much-needed break in an otherwise rainy week, for the event catered by Mission BBQ of Whitehall. Lunch was not without entertainment as a star-studded cast of speakers that included County Executives Phillips Armstrong and Lamont McClure spoke about PennDOT's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) classes, traffic safety statistics and regional collaboration.

LTAP Traffic Engineer Patrick Wright fielded questions about ways to prevent the estimated 40,000 traffic related deaths that happen in the U.S. annually, 1,100 of which occurring in Pennsylvania. LVPC Executive Director Becky Bradley praised the

importance of the LTAP classes and the immense value of information the classes offer in mitigating traffic-related incidents.

Wright deciphered the two main reasons why we experience nearly 50% more traffic-related fatalities than our northern neighbor: alcohol and speed.

Preservation and unity were key themes touched upon by Northampton County Executive McClure. He underscored the importance of collaborative efforts among municipalities and applauded scenic Wayne Grube Park as a symbol of our shared commitment to preserving our natural heritage. With its picturesque rolling hills and sprawling 200 acres of preserved greenery, the park embodies Northampton County's commitment to recreation and open space, McClure said.

Lehigh County Executive Armstrong echoed the sentiment of McClure, expressing his deep appreciation for the crucial role played by local government. He stated, "That's where things get done, at the local level," acknowledging the invaluable impact of government workers in our communities.

The LVPC takes immense pride in recognizing the dedication and contributions of all our local government workers throughout the Lehigh Valley.

Three LTAP classes are scheduled for Fall 2023 and are free to attend.

- Public Works Safety – 8/15/2023, 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
- Traffic Signals Basics – 9/19/2023, 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
- Winter Maintenance Planning – 10/11/2023, 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Those who are interested are encouraged to find more information and registration at lvpc.org/ltap (**hyperlink this**)